Freedom Watch™

Primary Candidate Primer Inside

Citizens Project

CFV Surfaces Again with Ordinance

After more than a year out of the political limelight, Colorado for Family Values (CFV) has surfaced again pushing for a new law for Colorado Springs. With a new director to spearhead the fight, CFV is starting a massive effort to gather the 11,085 signatures required. If they succeed, City Council can either adopt the ordinance or refer it to the ballot for the April, 1999 municipal elections.

Just what is this group, dedicated to opposing the "militant homosexual agenda," proposing for our city? In a roundabout strategy to repeal the City's Zero Tolerance Resolution, CFV is proposing a city ordinance (binding law) protecting city employees from discrimination based on a number of characteristics, but specifically excluding sexual orientation. In other words, they are proposing a human relations ordinance to ensure the city can fire city employees for being gay.

A bit of history illuminates the irony of their proposal. In 1991, before CFV existed, a human relations ordinance was proposed in Colorado Springs by the now defunct Human Relations Commission. The proposed ordinance would have given the HRC authority to investigate and take action on civil rights violations based on race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, marital status, familial status, or physical or mental disability. Sexual orientation was originally to be included in this list. The prospect of protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination so enraged local car salesman, Will Perkins, that he channeled his anger into forming Colorado for Family Values. CFV went on to draft and pass Amendment 2 which restricted every community in the entire state from extending civil rights protection to gay and lesbian people.

When Council informed the Commission they would not pass the ordinance if it included sexual orientation, the HRC removed sexual orientation, in order to pass protections for the remaining categories. Despite this change, CFV continued to vehemently oppose the ordinance. City Council never passed the ordinance, and the controversy contributed heavily to the disbanding of the HRC.

In May of 1997, City Council unanimously passed the Zero Tolerance Resolution. The resolution stated that the city would have zero tolerance for "discrimination of a racial, ethnic, sexual, or religious nature." "Sexual" can be interpreted to include discrimination based on sexual orientation. Although resolutions lack the force of law, the possibility that the City was revoking its right to fire its employees based only on their sexual orientation infuriated CFV. Given their waning credibility and without a paid director to sustain their efforts, CFV's objections to the resolution failed to make many waves at the time.

After appointing Paul Jessen to the long-vacant executive director position in December, CFV could revisit their grudge against City Council. Jessen's first attempt to overturn the resolution failed miserably. Councilman Dawson Hubert, whom CFV had convinced to carry their cause, failed to garner even a second from Council for his proposal to change the resolution.

Now, CFV is back with its latest attack on the City resolution. Their proposed ordinance states that the City "will not sanction any discrimination against any employee because of race, color, religion, sex (meaning male and female), national origin, ancestry, age, creed, physical or mental disability, or marriage to a co-worker." The ordinance also specifically states that it will supercede City Council Resolution 78-97 (the Zero Tolerance for Discrimination Resolution), and restrict Council from making any additions to the ordinance.

After a string of failures in recent years (claiming Manitou's city plan was part of "the gay agenda," attacking freedom of speech when Palmer High students wrote an article on gay teens, and the "Resolution for Community Standards" which had racist undertones) this could be the last gasp for CFV.

We'll keep you posted as this issue unfolds.

Citizens Project
P.O. Box 2085
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

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Community Conversation Trial-run Successful

by Cathrine M. Coulter
Pikes Peak Human Relations Coalition

This winter, forty-five Colorado Springs citizens agreed to participate in a "pilot program" in which to experience a series of discussions on race, race relations, and diversity issues people experience overtly and/or covertly every day in our community.

Unlike President Clinton's Initiative on Race, where communities held one large "facilitated" discussion, quickly and dutifully "checking off" this task as having been completed, Colorado Springs took the concept of dialogue one step further. A small group of concerned citizens began organizing a "Community Conversation on Race – Pilot" in the hopes of making a greater impact toward improving race relations in the Colorado Springs community by continuing the discussions on a larger scale.

The diverse "pilot" volunteers were coordinated into groups of 10-12. Volunteer facilitators were trained and the discussions began. These four groups of strangers met weekly for two hours, and opened their ears, hearts, and eyes to experiences centered around race.

The discussions were powerful, emotional, stressful, disturbing, and hopeful. "Constructive" disagreements and differences in points of view were shared and embraced. Strangers became acquaintances, acquaintances became friends, and racial barriers were knocked down a few levels.

After meeting five to six times, the pilot groups reconvened as a whole on June 2 at Colorado College to discuss their experiences and brainstorm on how to move to the next step in Colorado Springs. A few of the findings were:

- Racial issues *do* exist and are as diverse as our population in Colorado Springs.
- Discussions need to continue with greater community participation.
- Many expressed concern that not all the participants could come to every meeting and their input and participation was missed.
- Change of perception and stereotypes can be made only with education and awareness – the discussions provide both.
- Participants were surprised at how comfortable they felt and how freely they shared personal experiences and views on sensitive issues.
- The young adults (high school students) who participated provided and received valuable insight. Children and young adults are our future and should be involved and integrated into future discussions to truly impact future change in race relations.

As a result of the successful pilot, the conversations will continue. The Community Conversation on Race will be held in Fall 1998 and Spring 1999.

Pilot participants' advice to future dialogue participants:

- Be open and honest and you will get the most out of the discussions.
- Don't hold back.
- Be prepared to grow in your understanding of yourself and others.

The potential to build bridges of better understanding through personal, civil, and responsible discussion of racial issues is clear and exciting. In order to move forward in building a stronger community which has the tools with which

Continued on page 4

Primary Primer

Citizens Project

A brief introduction to your choices for the August 11 Primary

Anyone registered to vote before July 13 can vote in the Tuesday, August 11 primary (early voting begins August 3). Voters affiliated with a party vote in their respective party's primary (you may register with a party or change your affiliation until July 13). Unaffiliated voters may affiliate with a party at the polling place on election day in order to vote in the primary. They may unaffiliate at the County Clerk's office or by letter immediately after voting. For voter information call 520-6225.

The majority of the following information is pulled directly from the candidates' literature. Only races with contested primaries are included here. Citizens Project will publish the results of our comprehensive Candidate Survey in October for the general election.

GOVERNOR

Sen. Tom Norton [R]

Norton has served in the state legislature representing Greeley since 1986 and is currently the Senate Majority Leader. He is the Vice Chairman of the Legislative Council. He is concerned about Federal mandates. Norton supports protecting the environment through local and state standards, broadening the tax base, and reducing dependency on property taxes. Norton says he is the "people's choice." Norton is working to petition *onto the ballot.*

Treasurer Bill Owens [R]

Bill Owens is currently the state Treasurer. He has also been a state Representative and state Senator. He vows to "streamline government and oppose tax increases." He believes that the surplus tax money should be returned to the citizens and then citizens can decide if they want to spend it on schools, infrastructure, and other state programs. Owens also supports "financial incentives to schools districts that reduce administrative positions in favor of teachers." Owens is strongly anti-abortion.

Sen. Mike Feeley [D]

Endorsements: Colorado AFL-CIO.

Feeley is currently a State Senator from Lakewood, senate minority leader, and a partner in a Denver law firm. He is strongly supported by labor leaders. Feeley supports optional full-day kindergarten, increased pre-school opportunities, smaller student-to-teacher ratios in lower grades, optional summer reading programs, lengthening the school year, improved teacher training, increased parental involvement, technological education, and funding assistance to school districts to rebuild and repair infrastructure. He supports refunding one-third of all TABOR excess reserves, expanding state parks, better planning and development, and improving air quality.

Lt. Gov. Gail Schoettler [D]

She will focus on education, safe neighborhoods, clean air and water, and a high quality of life. As State Treasurer she started the Great Colorado Payback, which returned money to Colorado's citizens. Schoettler has been very involved in local school boards and started the School-to-Career partnership as Lieutenant Governor.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Joe Smith [R]

Currently the Deputy Attorney General. He believes in "lower taxes, less government and traditional values like family and personal responsibility." An advocate for property rights and gun rights, Smith pledges to "stay tough on crime, push to repeal unnecessary laws and regulations, crack down on frivolous lawsuits, and fight to end judicial activism and to reverse its results."

John Suthers [R]

Former El Paso County District Attorney, Suthers pledges to continue the "war on crime." Supports the death penalty, allowing young violent offenders to be prosecuted as adults, and establishing a statewide concealed weapons permit system. Suthers is anti-abortion and against assisted suicide.

Ken Salazar [D]

Endorsements: Gov. Roy Romer

Salazar is an attorney specializing in water, environmental, and administrative law. Salazar is a Colorado College graduate, former chief legal counsel to Gov. Roy Romer, former director of the State Dept. of Natural Resources, and fifth-generation Coloradan from the San Luis Valley. His three main themes are "defending Colorado's land and water, fighting gang violence, and protecting consumers from abusive practices." He pledges to promote parental responsibility, stop domestic violence, support police officers, maintain a competitive business environment, and eliminate needless government regulations.

HOUSE DISTRICT 20

Rep. Lynn Hefley [R]

Incumbent

Hefley was chosen in a close race with Mazetti to fill the seat vacated by Doug Lamborn (Lamborn filled State Senator Charlie Duke's seat). Hefley is now running to retain her seat. She is a small-business owner and the wife of US Representative Joel Hefley. Her priorities are to reduce government spending, cut taxes, revive the parental notification for abortion bill, and refund all surplus funds. She pledges to work well with others in the legislature.

Javier Mazzetti [R]

Mazzetti is a real estate broker and Academy School District Board of Education member. His goals are to reduce the power of the government and its intervention tactics. He enjoys support from leaders of Colorado Union of Taxpayers and Colorado Right To Life. Mazzetti has criticized Hefley for her willingness to compromise.

Tina Routhier [D]

Routhier supports reducing school class sizes, increasing the number of teachers, strict enforcement of anti-pollution laws, increased state funding for El Paso County roads, and an improved health insurance system. She opposes vouchers, which she says will cause segregation. Routhier says she is the "common sense candidate."

HOUSE DISTRICT 21

David Dahm [R]

Dahm is a retired Army lieutenant colonel and is President of the El Paso County Republican Men's Club. He supports capital punishment, the right to own a gun, local control, and less expensive and less intrusive Government. Dahm petitioned onto the ballot.

Keith King [R]

Endorsements: Speaker of the House, Chuck Berry

An entrepreneur who started a chain of waterbed stores, King served on the Cheyenne Mountain School Board, and as President of the Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy. King pledges to reduce government regulations, lower taxes and fees, and support concealed weapons laws and welfare reform. King is anti-abortion.

Sandra Baker [D]

Supports affordable housing and child care and a living wage. Baker is an advocate for improved public transportation, and planned and selective growth. She believes the education system needs to offer more varied training such as apprenticeships and vocational programs in order to prepare all students.

HOUSE DISTRICT 22

Rep. Marcy Morrison [R]

Incumbent

Morrison is a former Manitou Springs school board member and El Paso County Commissioner. She has served three consecutive terms as a Representative and is the vice-chair of the Health, Environment, Welfare, and Institutions Committee in the Legislature. Morrison has passed legislation favoring patients in health care and fair health insurance practices. She pledges to make sure taxpayers see results from highway projects to which the legislature commits, and supporting public schools in their efforts to meet state standards. Morrison is an advocate of welfare reform and is pro-choice.

Dave Schultheis [R]

Schultheis is the owner and manager of residential and commercial property. Opposition to abortion is a central tenet of his campaign. He believes "a right-to-life stand is not a *political issue,* it is a *moral issue.*" Schultheis pledges not only to oppose any tax increase but to support legislation that reduces taxes. Believes in the right to bear arms. Supports vouchers, tax credits for homeschool parents, and wants less state involvement in the schools. Thinks that government should not restrict state enterprise. Wants increased competition for health care. He credits James Dobson with inspiring him to run for office.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIST. 1

Comm. Duncan Bremer [R]

Incumbent

Bremer is a real estate attorney. Since becoming a commissioner in 1994, Bremer says he has reduced the county mill rate and personal property tax rate while cutting county expenditures and refunding surplus funds to taxpayers. Bremer strongly favors privatizing county services such as community corrections.

David L. Porter [R]

Porter is a former conductor and Cheyenne Mountain school district music teacher. He is currently a free lance musician. He pledges to support "1) efficient residential land use and business development, 2) tax limitation with responsible spending and cuts when necessary, 3) supporting county agencies, not micro-managing them, 4) retaining tax money locally for government functions which will result from federal and state devolution, 5) being accessible to the public."

Citizens Project

National Government

U.S. Senate

Dottie Lamm [D]

Endorsements: Emily's List

Denver Post columnist and former Colorado Governor Dick Lamm's wife. Pledges to focus on education, family issues, the environment, and senior citizens. Lamm wants to reduce class size and make Head Start stronger, help reduce the country's debt, work on campaign finance reform, criminalize the possession of guns near a school, support tax incentives for businesses offering on-site child care, and eliminate corporate welfare for polluting industries. Opposes any decrease in the federal government's role in public education. Lamm favors increasing the minimum wage and protecting the Earned Income Tax Credit. She is pro-choice.

Rep. Gil Romero [D]

Endorsements: AFSME and the AFL-CIO

Current State Representative from Pueblo and member of the Joint Budget Committee. Romero has strong labor union support. Romero has been a Public Defender, and a Chief Deputy District Attorney. Romero supports expanding Head Start, improving the quality of child care, pay equity for women, affirmative action, and the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Romero is pro-choice. Believes local communities should have the power to manage growth. Wants to preserve and stabilize Social Security and medical benefits, and to safeguard seniors in nursing homes to prevent abuse.

Sen. Nighthorse Campbell [R]

Incumbent

Campbell was elected as a Democrat in 1992 and switched to the Republican party while in office. Campbell is a supporter of the Balanced Budget Amendment, the Defense of Marriage Act (which banned federal recognition of same-sex marriages), the Partial Birth Abortion Ban, and amending the Constitution to make burning an American flag illegal. He opposed NAFTA. Campbell is the only Native American in the Senate.

Bill Eggert [R]

Eggert is an attorney from Denver. Pledges to return control over education to local communities and empower parents by giving them more responsibility. Eggert supports "Right to Work" legislation. Believes in expanding the missile defense program, and in continuing to guarantee a strong military. Believes defense system should be our nation's top priority. Eggert is strongly anti-abortion and vows to fight for a partial birth abortion ban. Eggert wants to simplify the tax code and reduce the power of the IRS. One of his priorities is to keep tax dollars in Colorado, rather than giving them to the federal government. Eggert wants to eliminate the marriage penalty tax and cut marginal tax rates.

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National Association for the Advancement of Colored People NAACP 1909

LWV The League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region

Taxpayer Party Bridges Militia and Religious Right

By Marlene Hines

In the early 1980s, the far right movement to deny rights to gay men and lesbians, restrict the right to abortion, and challenge health education in the schools began to gain momentum. The grassroots manifestation of this movement has grown to become the backbone of the Republican Party over the last several election cycles.

After serving as the ground soldiers in many victorious elections, the Christian right leadership is feeling abandoned and angry at the GOP. Many Christian right leaders feel their agenda has been overlooked, and they are ready to order their troops elsewhere.

In fact, in a March Associated Press article by Robert Unruh, James Dobson of Focus on the Family was quoted as saying, "I would really like to see millions of people call or write Newt Gingrich, Dick Armey, Trent Lott and others and put them on notice the ground is shifting underneath their feet; that they are aware that they have been ignored ... and if that lack of commitment to the things in which they believe continues then they will abandon the Republican Party."

Dobson's fantasy may be coming true. Conservative Christian leaders in the Republican Party have already begun jumping ship, and many are headed to the US Taxpayers Party (USTP).

The Alternative

Ellen Craswell, long-time Republican and Christian right activist, and most recently the 1996 Republican candidate for the Washington State governor's seat, announced to her supporters that she was leaving the Republican Party for the USTP just two weeks after Dobson made the above statement.

Going back further, Pennsylvania-based Peg Luksic ran for the 1994 Pennsylvania governor's seat as a representative of the Constitution Party, the Pennsylvania version of the USTP. Luksic is known for producing the video "Who Controls the Children" which was used at county-level meetings across the country in the early 1990s to motivate local Christian Coalition chapters to become more active in their local school boards.

Even James Dobson recently revealed that he cast his 1996 Presidential vote for USTP founder and Presidential nominee, Howard Phillips.

Who Is the USTP?

The US Taxpayers Party was founded by longtime right-wing activist Howard Phillips. The *Colorado Christian* and other more "mainstream" Christian publications emphasize the USTP's dedication to fighting abortion, and find its absolutism on the choice issue appealing. The primary goal the USTP lists for itself, however, is "To restore American Jurisprudence to its Biblical premises."

According to their Website, the USTP's objectives include: abolishing the "unconstitutional" Federal Reserve System, repealing the Sixteenth Amendment, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, eliminating the federal income tax, appointing only judges who acknowledge the "legal personhood of the unborn child", and ending federal "interference" with imposition of the death penalty for capital crimes.

The USTP also claims to safeguard the Bill of Rights, including the rights of property, free speech, and religion; and the right to keep and bear arms. They advocate terminating Federal funding for Planned Parenthood, AIDS education, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Legal Services Corporation, and "other subsidized forms of ideological advocacy." They support closing the US Department of Education; restoring local and parental authority by terminating the federal role in education; and withdrawing from all "New World Order" treaties and organizations.

While the above list reads more like the objectives of the Christian Patriot or Militia movement than those of Focus on the Family, the USTP still won James Dobson's Presidential ballot. This fact points to the closing gap between far-right patriot groups and organizations like Focus on the Family.

According to Fredrick Clarkson in his book *Eternal Hostility*, "The [USTP] party ... epitomizes a growing split in the Christian Right between the 'pragmatists,' such as Ralph Reed formerly of the Christian Coalition, and the purists, as represented by Randall Terry [founder of the militant anti-abortion organization, Operation Rescue] and the USTP."

Clarkson goes on to describe the impact of Phillips's 1992 run for President by stating, "... the party successfully fused elements of the historic racist right (such as elements of the American Party of George Wallace and the former Populist Party of David Duke and Green Beret veteran Bo Gritz) with the Reconstructionist movement and Operation Rescue." (Reconstructionist believe the nation should be governed by Biblical law.)

In fact, USTP leader Rev. Matthew Trewhella was videotaped by Planned Parenthood Federation of America while making a speech to the US Taxpayer's Party of Wisconsin in 1994, advocating the formation of church-based militias. He used his own church which holds firearms classes for its members as a model. He also suggested that for Christmas, attendees do the "... most loving thing. I want you to buy each of your children an SKS rifle and 500 rounds of ammunition." Militia manuals were also for sale at this meeting.

Rev. Trewhella was on the National Board of the USTP when he made this statement and remained in leadership after the incident despite extensive media coverage. In fact, Trewhella went on to be a delegate to the 1996 USTP convention, casting his vote for Howard Phillips. Other militia connections include Wisconsin USTP member, Ernest Brusubardis III, who was both the captain of the Wisconsin Militia and USTP candidate for Secretary of State.

Despite its clear militia connections, the USTP received Dobson's support and the support of numerous leaders in the religious right. Additionally, in 1996 the USTP was a qualified party in 39 states. As of April, 1998, the Colorado USTP had declared candidates in the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, and Senate races as well as a number of legislative races.

While a recent meeting between Washington, D.C. Republican power brokers and Dobson, Gary Bauer, and other conservative Christians has at least temporarily quelled their threats to lead their troops away from the GOP, much time remains between now and the Presidential election of 2000. The USTP is gaining in popularity, visibility, and is an eager alternative to far-right defectors of the Republican party.

Marlene Hines is the Director of the Mountain States Network Against Bigotry, the Colorado/Wyoming project of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment. Hines can be reached at 1525 Sherman Box 113 Denver, CO 80203 303-839-5953 or by email at MSNAB@aol.com.

Citizens Project

Update

Committee for Responsible County Government

Bremer and Beedy challenge county support for nonprofit services

For some county commissioners, their affection for privatization does not extend to nonprofit entities. Commissioners Betty Beedy and Duncan Bremer have challenged the county's working relationship with a broad range of nonprofit agencies who contract with the county to provide services. They see these agencies as "feeding at the public trough" and providing unnecessary and unneeded services. Their solution: eliminate all county funding to nonprofit agencies.

Agencies whose county support is being challenged by Beedy and Bremer, include the Visitor's Bureau which promotes local tourism, the Humane Society, environmental programs such as Graffiti Removal, the Clean Air Campaign, and Energy Resource Center.

Community Partner organizations also provide services to citizens who are elderly, disabled, and/or financially unable to access needed services. These agencies include Pikes Peak Community Action, the American Red Cross, The Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence, and Court Appointed Special Advocates which provides trained volunteers to assess and advocate on behalf of children whose families are going through the court system.

Community Partners, or those agencies which provide services with some county assistance, are uniformly providing services which are not profitable. As Abraham Lincoln, in an 1854 statement, said:

"The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do for themselves in their separate and individual capacities."

Nonprofit providers offer the community cost-effective services which further the establishment of justice, insure domestic tranquillity, and promote the general welfare. To say that government should ignore citizens who need these services shows a mean-spirited attitude toward people. Perhaps we should think more about how to restore dignity and worth to people and government. Partnering with nonprofits helps create an environment where government's worth and dignity is visible.

Community Conversation, Continued

to work through racial issues, many more community citizens must be involved!

- Organizations and businesses can sponsor discussions, events, provide meeting space, donate services and/or funds and encourage volunteers and/or facilitators to participate.
- Individual citizens can be involved by participating in the discussions, volunteering to become a trained facilitator, and/or recruiting family and friends who can add to the diversity of the groups.

For additional information and/or to become involved in the Fall Community Conversation on Race contact:

Community Conversation on Race
C/O The Urban League of the Pikes Peak Region
PO Box 1979
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
634-1525 phone
634-3357 fax

News Briefs

Court allows public funding for religion

The most significant event in the on-going vouchers debate came in Wisconsin on June 10 when the State Supreme Court ruled that the city of Milwaukee could spend public funds on religious schools.

The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, the country's first vouchers program, began in 1990 by paying tuition at secular schools for a certain number of students with low-income parents. In 1995, the program expanded by adding religious schools to the list of choices. Most private schools in Milwaukee, as elsewhere in the country, are church schools. Expanding the program to include religious schools is expected to increase the number of students attending private schools at public expense to 13,500. The program permits 15 percent of the public school population to take advantage of the vouchers.

Under the current Milwaukee plan, about 1,500 students attend 23 private, non-religious schools at public expense.

In overturning a lower court's decision against the vouchers program, the Wisconsin Supreme Court said the program has a "secular purpose" and "will not have the primary effect of advancing religion."

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, promised the ruling would be appealed to the US Supreme Court. "This certainly isn't over," Lynn said. "The court's decision is hardly surprising. [Wisconsin] Governor Tommy Thompson, a determined voucher advocate, appointed a specific state supreme court justice with this case specifically in mind." Lynn also noted that this ruling is not in line with state court decisions in Ohio, Vermont, and Maine where voucher aid to religious schools was struck down.

School prayer amendment doesn't make the grade

The House failed to reach a two-thirds majority needed to pass the so-called "Religious Freedom Amendment" at the June 4 vote. The proposed amendment to the US Constitution was a major component of the Christian Coalition's agenda and was backed by numerous other right-wing groups. The amendment would have allowed public school teachers to lead school prayers, and public funding of religious institutions. The Christian Coalition is expected to use their voter guides to portray opponents of the Amendment as anti-Christian.

Vote, Vote, Vote

You must be registered to vote by July 13 to vote in the Primary Election. You may register at the County Clerk's office, 200 S. Cascade. Call 520-6225 for voter information.

Freedom Watch Summer Vacation

The next *Freedom Watch* issue will be published on August 26. Have a great summer!

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Your voice for tolerance in the Pikes Peak region.

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Our Mission: Citizens Project is a grassroots organization in the Pikes Peak region dedicated to upholding the traditional American values of pluralism, freedom of religion, and separation of church and state.

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